



**YWCA
of NIAGARA FALLS**

6135 CULP STREET • NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2G 2B6

416-357-YWCA (357-9922)

July 14, 1989

Elizabeth Barron
30 Nova Crescent, #403,
Welland, Ontario.
L3C 6P8

Dear Bess:

As always it is a pleasure to hear from you and to know that you are basking in luxurious surroundings. I am terribly sorry our letter did not reach your correct address, but rest assured this will be corrected.

Bess, many thanks for your hundred dollar donation. Your right, it did brighten my day and will be put to good use. Our financial situation has stabilized, but as you are aware this situation is tentative. We will be back to the same old fight as of January as we are predicting a \$22,000.00 deficit in 1990.

Your poem titled YWCA Women Volunteers is so applicable. I thought I would share it with my staff at our next monthly meeting. I'm sure they will be able to relate to its meaning and I know it will bring some joy to their day.

I am sorry to hear that your health prevents you from getting around the way you used to. Although it is "cramping your style" somewhat, I'm sure that you continue to be very active and extremely busy.

Bess, now that I have your new phone number, I'll call you to arrange a luncheon date. Until then, take care.

Yours truly,

Denise Arkell
Executive Director

DA/ta

Come Join Us!!

You are cordially invited to attend

THE 76TH ANNUAL MEETING

of

NIAGARA FALLS YWCA

Thursday, March 22, 1990

at

Brights Wines Ltd., Winewood Room

5:30 p.m. Wine & Cheese

6:15 p.m. Meeting

Cost: \$10.00 *per person*

RSVP by March 8, 1990

YWCA Office

357-9922



— Celebrating over 75 years of community service —

ELIZABETH BARRON
38 NOVA CRESCENT, #403
WELLAND, ONTARIO
L3C 6P8



**YWCA
of NIAGARA FALLS**

6135 CULP STREET • NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2G 2B6

416-357-YWCA (357-9922)

March 1, 1990

Ms. Elizabeth Pitt-Barron
#403-38 Nova Crescent
Welland, Ontario
L3C 6P8

Dear Elizabeth:

At the February Board meeting of the YWCA of Niagara Falls your name was brought forward as a candidate to receive an Honorary Membership to the YWCA of Niagara Falls.

At this time it is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected. Honorary Memberships are awarded to those individuals who have given many years of service to the association and are committed to the development of women in the Niagara Falls community.

Honorary Memberships will be presented at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 22, 1990 - 6:15 p.m. at Brights Wines Ltd., Winewood Room. We hope that you will be present to receive your award at this time.

Please contact the YWCA as soon as possible to confirm your attendance.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Marilyn Minard
President

NIAGARA FALLS YWCA

6135 CULP STREET

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2G 2B6

416-357-9922

United Way Member Agency

Fit for Life

WHO?

- any woman living on low income with or without children
- informal caregivers who meet the above criteria

WHAT?

Fit for Life is a...

- comprehensive program including transportation, child care, fitness and life skills designed to eliminate the barriers that inhibit low income women
- the program aims to create opportunities for growth, awareness, personal achievement and building self esteem
- women in the program become a support group providing encouragement and social interaction
- the atmosphere is friendly, relaxed and comfortable

WHERE?

- Niagara Falls YWCA
6135 Culp Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario
- Bus transportation is provided to and from the YWCA

WHEN?

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- 3 sessions running from September to June

THE PROGRAM

FITNESS

- 45 minute aerobics class
- improves overall fitness level
- establishes healthy life styles
- participants work at their own levels

LIFE SKILLS

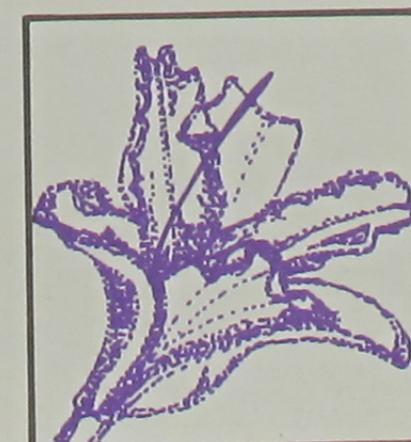
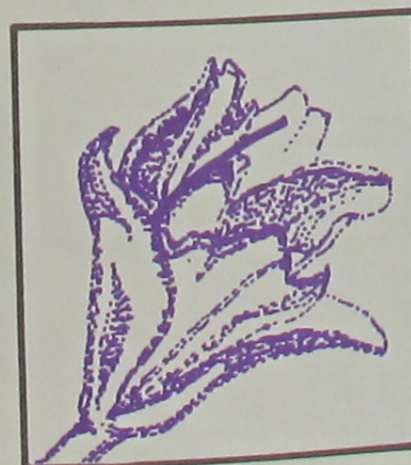
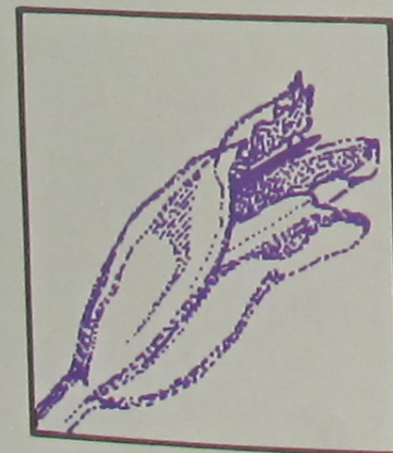
- one hour discussions, films, guest speakers and outings
- provides valuable information and aids women in the process of personal development
- some of the issues that will be dealt with include: budgeting, nutrition, stress management and community awareness

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

- a fun, stimulating, social environment for children
- games, activities, crafts and music
- time to explore the children's playground, gym and playroom
- opportunities for mothers/caregivers to network, develop knowledge on child care techniques, and discover how to evaluate the quality of child care services

HOW?

- those interested in further information about the Fit for Life program should contact the Niagara Falls YWCA at 357-9922. Ask for the Fit for Life Co-ordinator.





Commitment

Membership Makes a Difference

As part of an international association, the Niagara Falls YWCA is a progressive, community-based, voluntary organization, dedicated to responding to the needs of women. We shall provide a leadership role by offering quality programs and services to encourage individual development and self reliance, support those in need and improve the status of women.

PROGRAM MEMBERSHIPS

GENERAL ADULT
women 18 and over
and their preschool children

YOUTH
girls aged 6 to 17

FAMILY
one adult woman and children

ASSOCIATE (NON-VOTING)
men and boys

SUPPORT MEMBERSHIPS

Sustaining and Life memberships support the operation of programs and services offered by the YWCA of Niagara Falls.

we need you!!



Services

The Niagara Falls YWCA has a long history of community service. We are pleased and proud to offer:

membership opportunities

a variety of quality programs
and social services

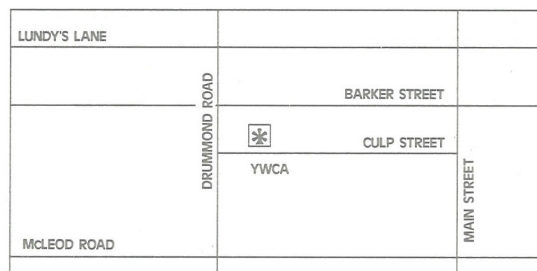
reasonable prices

convenient location

qualified, personable staff

volunteer opportunities

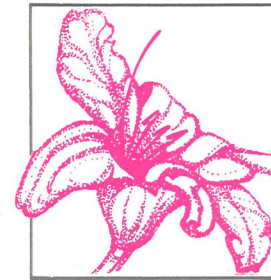
come join us!!



UNITED WAY MEMBER AGENCY

357-YWCA or 357-9922

6135 CULP STREET - NIAGARA FALLS - ONTARIO



NIAGARA FALLS YWCA

UNITED WAY MEMBER AGENCY

*Community
Programs & Services*

■ 6135 CULP STREET

■ NIAGARA FALLS • ONTARIO L2G 2B6

■ (416) 357-9922

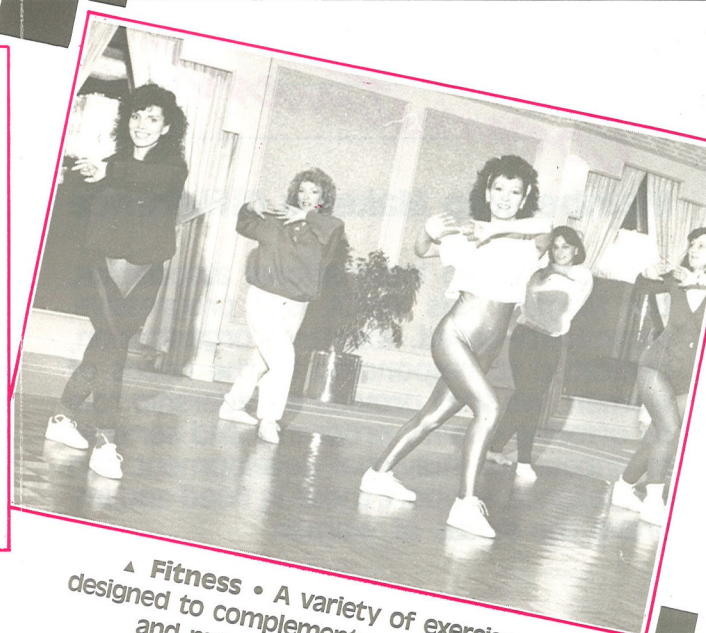
267
1911



▲ **YWCA Residence** • Short and long term housing for females 16 and over • Temporary emergency housing for women with children.



▲ **Resource Center** • A community center for parents, caregivers and their children • Provides support, interaction, referral, child development, and access to information.



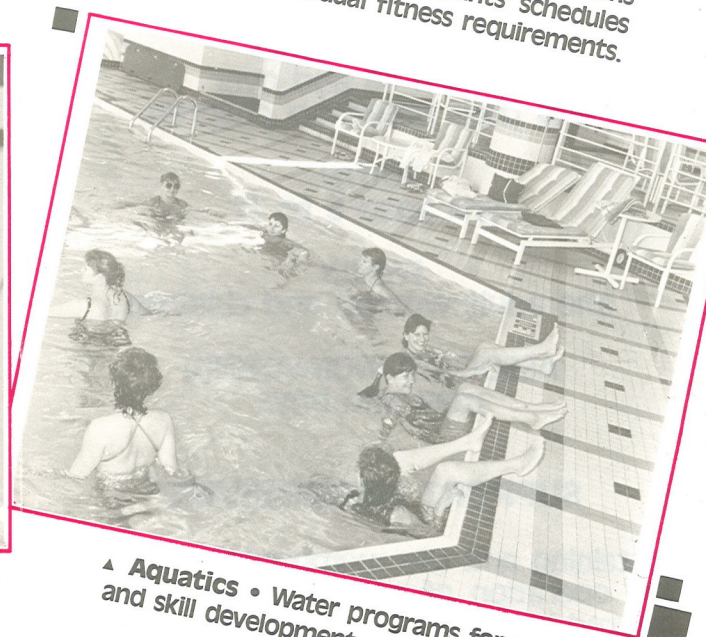
▲ **Fitness** • A variety of exercise programs designed to complement participants' schedules and meet individual fitness requirements.



▲ **Fit For Life** • A personal development program for women on low income • Includes fitness, life skills, transportation and a children's program.



▲ **Play & Learn Nursery School** • A licensed preschool program providing a positive, fun learning environment which includes: social interaction, development of fine and gross motor skills, cognitive development and school-readiness training.



▲ **Aquatics** • Water programs for recreation and skill development accommodate women with different levels of ability.

NIAGARA FALLS YWCA

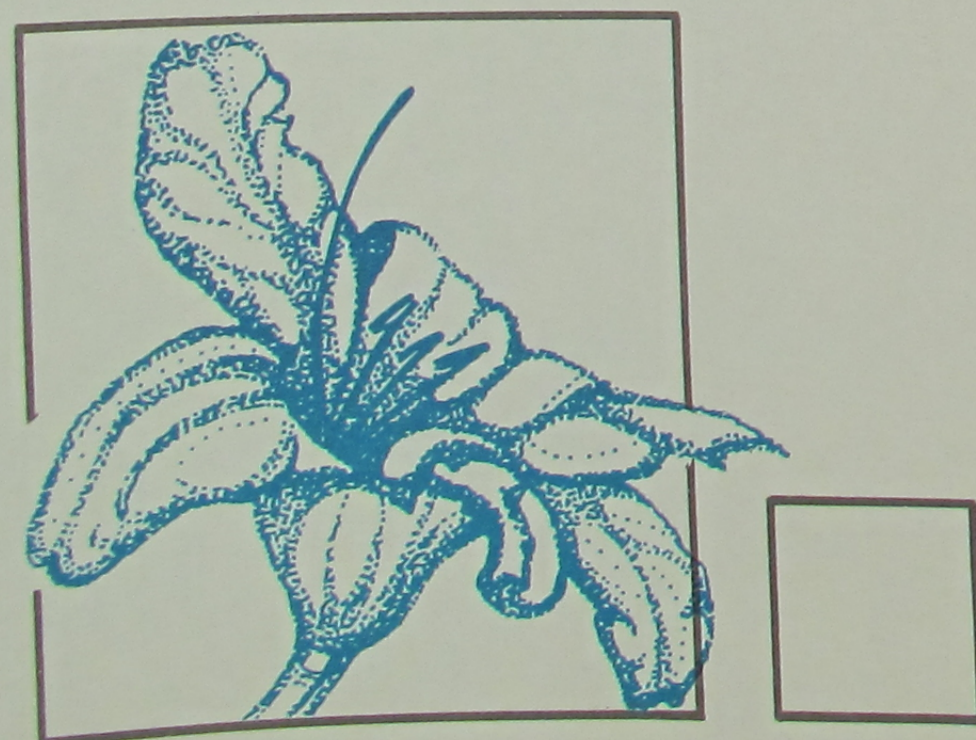
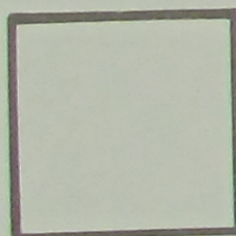
6135 CULP STREET

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2G 2B6

416-357-9922

United Way Member Agency

Residence



ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

PERMANENT HOUSING – short or long term accommodation for women

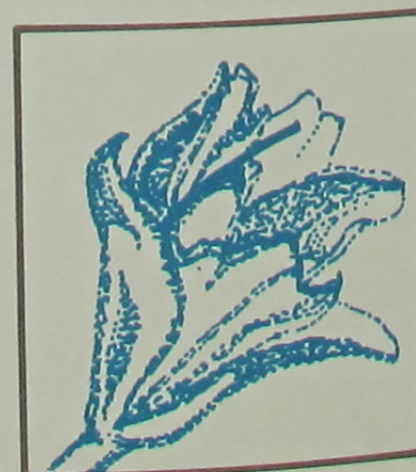
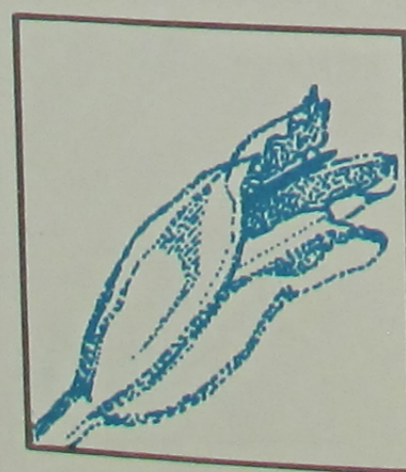
EMERGENCY HOUSING – temporary housing for women with children

SERVICES

- 24 hour staff for security and assistance
- crisis intervention and supportive counselling
- life skills and personal growth opportunities
- referrals to community services
- prepared dinner Monday through Friday

BENEFITS

- safe, secure environment
- affordable housing
- convenient, central location close to shopping areas and schools
- located on city bus route
- friendly, warm atmosphere
- opportunities for social interaction



FACILITIES

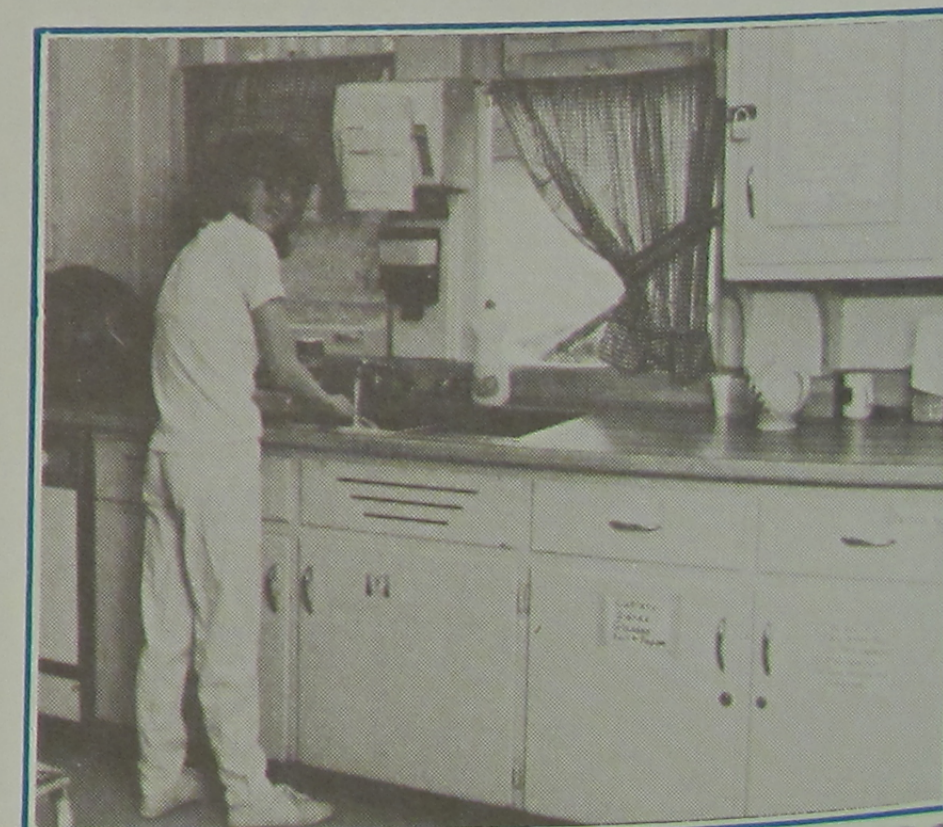
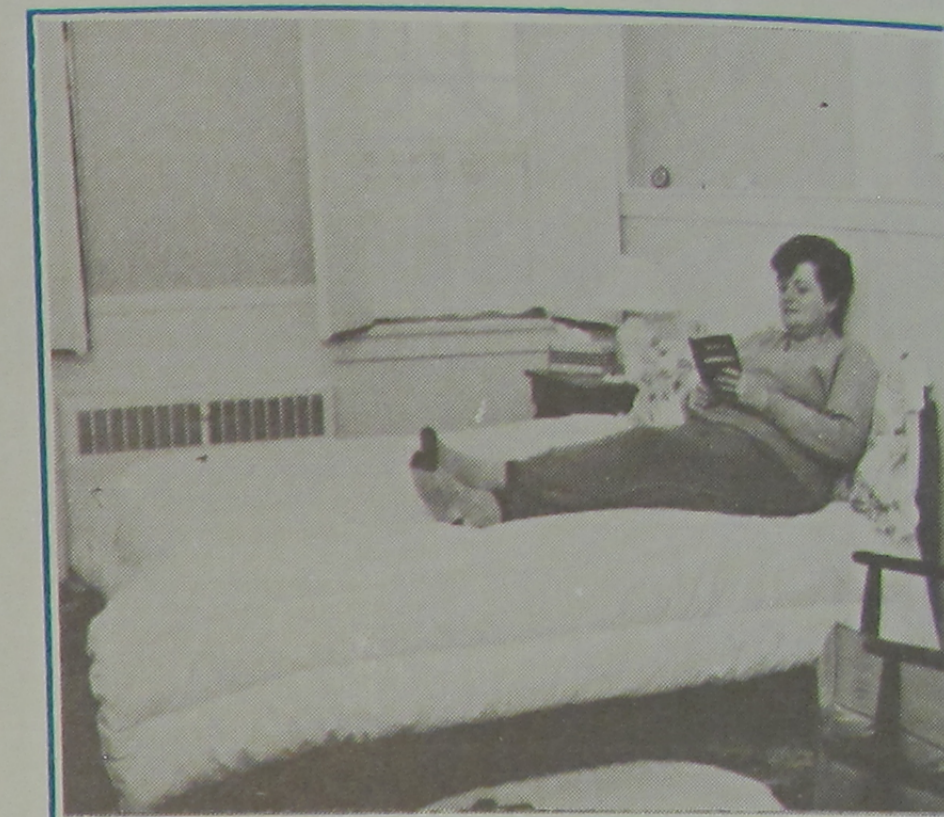
- single and double furnished rooms
- kitchen and dining facilities
- coin operated laundry
- central lounge with television

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- females age 16 and over, exceptions made for those referred by Family and Childrens' Services
- those with an established income or those eligible for public assistance
- those attending school, working, seeking employment or involved in a community program
- mental health clients by medical referral only

PROCEDURE

- contact the YWCA Residence at 357-9922
- prospective clients will meet with residence staff to verify eligibility and outline residents' responsibilities



Ann 93b

YWCA talk

Pitt - Byl Conversation

- B: in Oshawa in 1951
P: I said I left Oshawa, I opened Oshawa
B: Oh, you opened Oshawa. When did that begin? Do you remember.
P: the end of the war, in 1944
B: OK, so you opened in
P: and I left in '61
B: so you were the physical education director.
P: They had a mistake. They have somebody else there for opening it. There was someone who came out and did the planning and doing an evaluation of the place. But I was the first director.
B: OK
P: and.. McLaughlin was there and he gave the entire building. But he hated swimming pools, he wouldn't put in a swimming pool, until after he died and then they put in a swimming pool. they also have some arrangements for moderate housing, like the building next door to us here, and its changed a little. They said one they would never have it running because it was too expensive. They walked out and left all their Persian rugs and pictures in my office and everything was panelled, library, everything, even the cupboards. They said that it would cost over two thousand dollars, just for the heating. That's a lot in those days. And it made it very hard, and the YM had a difficult time trying to get established and finally sunk under the waves. They had to, people were distrustful, you know the organization, and you had to prove that you were doing something for the community. You had to prove that your lives don't go under the waves. And if you provide a needful program for the community, that they really needed, then it was a breeze. Do you know what I mean?
B: Yes
P: Nobody believes that but me, but I always did. I always trusted my people and if you trust in people and work with them, not on your own mind you. You can't do a job alone. You have to have a good board and they said that men wouldn't go on the board. They did, and if you gave them help when they needed it, they'd go the rest of the way. I never had any trouble at all. The only trouble that I had was when a woodpecker came down the chimney in the library and threw soot all over the place. That was a problem. We had no place to have gym, so I used the outdoor terrace as a stage because it was built up from the grass level and you could put about a hundred seats up there. And it made a nice outdoor theatre. And we would have programs outside, and as I say if you work with other groups, that helps you too, like the boys club, they have a place. there was a religious problem for a while because the Catholic priest in that area had not said that he would assist in any way. Well I happened to have a (...) that came by quite freely and I was sorry for him because he was

justifying
w/ some?

an old guard who brought troops home from the war. So I didn't want to fire him, but I did have trouble because he drank and so I thought here's a chance or an opportunity, so I called his priest and he walked in the door and I said "hello Pat" and he looked at me as a stranger from somewhere, and I said "You have a brother Mike haven't you?" and he said "Yes". "Oh and you lived in Collingwood didn't you?" and he said yes. You went to CCI, and he said yes. Oh you knew my brother Bert Pitt. And he said yes. I said, I'm from Collingwood too, did you know his sister? No, He said, she was younger. That's me I said, I said, You're the one who is not going to cooperate with me. Oh, he said, I really admired your dad. He was a fine man. But your brother Mike was always getting into trouble at school wasn't he? Yes, he was. Anyway, I got him to get my camp folders out, then um, what's next to a priest above him in rank?

B: a bishop?

P: no, not that high. Any way, I had almost. They had almost excommunicated a girl for being on the board, you see. I said, you know I wouldn't cause any difficulty in your religion or anything like that. I said, I know the church in Collingwood, and I taught in three convents, I can't do you any harm. Besides, I'm blessed five times by your holy Father. (laughing). I have full cooperation. He eventually died. I went back to the 35th reunion and up on the stage was the priest who had almost excommunicated my woman on the board, so I went up to him and said "Father, it did my heart good to see you sitting up there" and he said "Yes, they have done a good job." and I said "yes they sure have." He gave then indication, you know, whatever.. He's now on the advisory board. I said, "I think you've all done a great job" He thought so too. So that was a what I call a dividend. A dividend is when years later, and you'll find the same young man. It is when years later something astonishing will happen, these things will come back to you. I was over in St. Catherines before I took sick, and a woman came up to me and asked "didn't you work in Eatons?" and I said yes, "You were at the club weren't you?" She said, you know I'll never forget a dress you wore one night. It was my dream dress, the stairs were old and long and there were three flights of them and to do the two at a time is really something. But I was going dancing one night and I had black hair, its like that black horse-tail whatever

B: yup

P: and she said you were running down those stairs and I was so scared that you would trip. But it was a black dress with puffed sleeves, and blue sequins. And she said well I've always remembered that dress. And she said you taught your young class in it. I said "I did? Isn't that awful?" And she said no, It was just beautiful. And I had a big class, 110 at that time. And I had a beautiful pianist, she played beautifully. You never payed any attention to the music because she just played. She used to play

with the Toronto Symphony at the time. She can really play. Here was this past-middle aged woman who remembered what I wore in the gym class. And it gave her pleasure during those years. And she said she never forgot. She remembered this dress. And I never wore it when I didn't have a good time in it. To me, people to gym for a special reason, they don't get any enjoyment out of it. they don't enjoy it the way that they should because it's to get slim, it's to get your muscles strong, not to refresh you and have a good time. See what I mean That trend is recently, slimmastics, or whatever. I think they should do it to have some fun, to make friends. That is at the Y here. Do you know Brad Clement?

B: No

P: You should meet him, he is quite a character. I said all you do is go in and sit on a machine. You don't make friends all your life like Pauline Sellers, still coming out here. You take, these and all those other people who come from Hawaii who come to see me. They met in the gym class and they have been friends all their lives.

B: I once had lunch with seven women that went to Camp Tanamacoon in 1925 to 1930 and they meet for lunch the first Monday of every month

P: the .. people are the same. They met their husbands there, met her husband there. Her husband was the head of the Hawaiian YMCA. They miss alot. I said you haven't got a comfortable chair in the whole Y. Oh dear, I open my mouth too much.

B: Do you need to make arrangements for lunch at all?

P: no, not much. We're going down now.



The **Margaret Eaton School Digital Collection** is a not-for-profit resource created in 2014-2015 to assist scholars, researchers, educators, and students to discover the Margaret Eaton School archives housed in the Peter Turkstra Library at Redeemer University College. Copyright of the digital images is the property of Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Canada and the images may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email digital images for individual non-commercial use. To learn more about this project or to search the digital collection, go to <http://libguides.redeemer.ca/mes>.